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What happens when you die?

Part 3 Soul sleeping

Some people believe that the soul is an immortal entity which has just been placed inside the body. They believe the soul can't die.

Does this refer to just the body, or does it refer to the whole man? Let us examine scriptures to clear up this common misconception forever.

Ezekiel 18:4, *"Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; **The soul who sins shall die.**"*

This verse makes it very clear to us that the soul is subject to death. If the soul was naturally immortal, it could not die and this word of God would not be true.

From Genesis to Revelation there are seventeen hundred references to the word "soul" or "spirit," and yet not once is it referred to as immortal or undying.

Psalms 33:19, To deliver their soul from death,
And to keep them alive in famine

Psalms 56:13, For You have delivered my soul from death. *Have You not kept my feet from falling, That I may walk before God In the light of the living?*

Psalms 78:50, He made a path for His anger; He did not spare their soul from death, But gave their life over to the plague,

Revelation 16:3, Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.

Judges 16:16, And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death,

Isaiah 53:12, Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

There is a resurrection of the both just and unjust.

Acts 24:15, *I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.*

From above scripture we know that this resurrection has reference to the bodies of the just and unjust.

When we study the 1 Corinthians Chapter 15 will know primary subject is resurrection of the body.

When the Holy spirit declares that those who belong to Christ will be made alive in His coming. This is purely talks about the bodily resurrection of believers.

1 Corinthians 15:22, 27 & 44,

²²*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.*

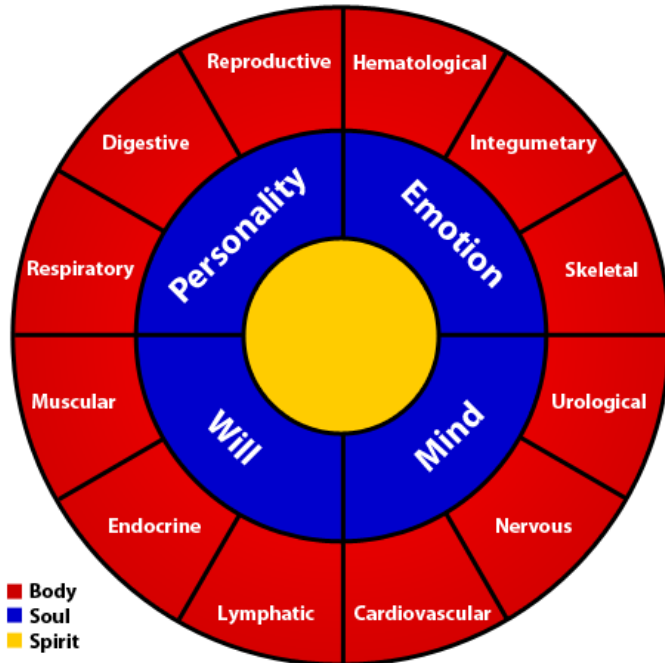
²⁷ *For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.*

⁴⁴ *It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

Believing sinners will pass out of death into life before they reach the grave.

John 5:24, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me **has everlasting life**, and shall not come into judgment, but **has passed from death into life**.”

TRILOGRAM OF MAN (unregenerate)



The same thing is also stressed by Apostle Paul in the letter to Ephesus.

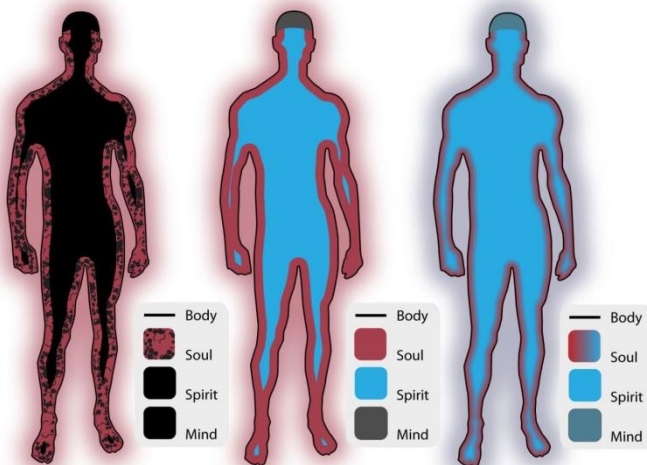
Ephesians 2:1-5, And you **He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,**² in which you once walked

according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Before Born Again

Born Again

Spiritually Maturing



Jesus again says in **John 6:47**, *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.*

Peter when he writes in His letter

1 Peter 1:9, *receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.*

In the book of Hebrews

Hebrews 10:39, *But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.*

James when he writes to believers in his letter

James 5:20, *let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

1 Thessalonians 5:23, *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

By this verse and many other Scriptures we know that the soul of man differs from the spirit.

Hebrews 4:12, *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword,*

*piercing even to the **division of soul and spirit**, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*

Let us look at some of the verses that talk about the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Calvary.

Following verses about Christ's Soul.

Isaiah 53:10-12, *Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When **You make His soul an offering for sin**, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹**He shall see the labour of His soul**, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because **He poured out His soul unto death**, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.*

Jesus will make His soul as an offering for our sins. He poured out His soul unto death.

Acts 2:27-31, *For You will not **leave my soul in Hades**, Nor will You allow **Your Holy One to see corruption**. ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life;*

*You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’
29 “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.*

Again the promise is that God will not let Christ soul in Hades or will His body to see corruption.

Following versus about Christ body.

1 Peter 2:24, who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

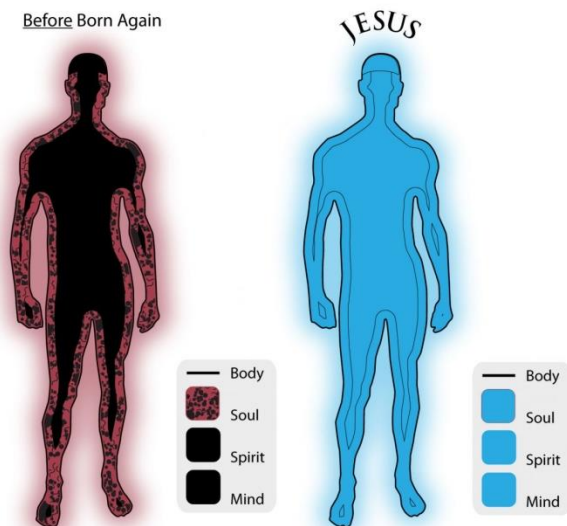
Hebrews 10:10, By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Mark 14:34, Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch.”

Of His Spirit

Luke 23:46, *And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, “Father, ‘into Your hands I commit My spirit.’” Having said this, He breathed His last.*

We see from the above verses of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and His death three distinctive parts of His Body, Soul and Spirit.



First after the death of Jesus Christ where did His body and soul go?

To the grave. This is not Sheol/ Hades.

Where did Jesus spirit go at His death?

To the Father (Luke 23:46)

Even when Stephen the first martyr for Christ last words when he was stoned to death for his faith in Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 7:59-60, *And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”*⁶⁰ *Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

The spirit has come from the Lord and it goes back to Him.

Ecclesiastes 12:7, *Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.*

However, there is not the slightest suggestion that Stephen’s soul fell asleep.

Asleep in Jesus Christ

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

Are believers dead in Christ? They are alive in Christ. They have been made alive.

We just read from Ephesians 2:1-5.

Those who dead in Christ have already received,

- Eternal life
- Salvation of their souls
- Passed from death to Life

Romans 6:4-5, *Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.* ⁵ *For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.*

We are united with Christ in His death so we also in His resurrection.

Colossians 3:1-3, *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.* ² *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.* ³ *For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

Christ is in them. The Holy Spirit is in them. They are under the control of the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:2, *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

They have been recreated. They are not dead. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are not dead.

David is dead according to **Acts 13:36**, *“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption;*

David’s body saw corruption, but not David’s soul. Therefore it was David’s body that fell asleep, not his soul. “David is not ascended into the heavens.” Those who are Christ’s at His coming will be made alive. This refers to the body. **I Corinthians 15:21 - 24.**

Putting this body comparing to the off the Tent/Tabernacle.

2 Peter 1:14, *knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.*

Peter was saying that he wants to put off the body since he has received the salvation of his soul, Eternal life which is God’s free gift.

This is what Jesus told Peter,

John 21:18-19, ¹⁸*Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.”*¹⁹*This He spoke,*

signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

Like Stephen, Peter also fell asleep but its only his body this is what people use argue from based on the **Ecclesiastes 9:5 & 10,**

⁵ For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten.

¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

These verses are the principle verse used by some Christians to support their teaching that the soul of man is unconscious, or asleep, between the moment of death and resurrection.

Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table.

Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' ²⁷ "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰ And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹ But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

The concept of unconscious, not remembering and no knowledge is completely debunked from this story.

Soul is Conscious

Isaiah 55:3, *Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—The sure mercies of David.*

When a sinner believes the Gospel and put his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ receives the end of faith is the salvation of his soul.

The soul of the believer lives but his body is corrupted until his resurrection.

- But this question is asked, “Is not man alive when he is asleep?”
- “Is not the person asleep in bed alive but unconscious?”
- “Cannot, the soul be both alive and unconsciously asleep between physical death and resurrection?”

These questions cannot be answered scripturally for sure. Soul of man is more than the breath which keeps him alive physically. When the believer receives the end of his faith, the salvation of his soul, his body may be at

the point of physical death, and something more than breath is saved.

Conclusion

The soul of the sinful person is saved when that person believes; but his body will not be saved until the day of redemption.

A person who has trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour goes immediately to Paradise to be in the presence of the Lord.

Though their body is in the grave and decomposes, their soul and spirit (the immaterial part, the real person) goes immediately into the presence of the Saviour.

At the rapture (the return of the Lord for the church) the dead in Christ return with Him and their bodies are raised so that their souls and spirits are joined with their resurrected, glorified bodies.

At the same time, those who are alive when Christ returns are simply transformed into their glorified bodies like that of the Saviour's.

There is no intermediate place or condition of soul sleep. Rather, believers are in Paradise with the Lord and very much aware of His presence.

Difference between Soul and Spirit

Many psychologist, human experts and even some well-known theologians tried to explain the difference yet they have failed to clear out the differences. Whereas we see in the book of Hebrews 4:12 says that the word of God is the one which could divide both.

In the Bible the word for soul and spirit has been used interchangeably.

The Hebrew word translated “soul” is “***nephesh***”.

The verb is “***naphash***” and means “***to breathe***”. Therefore, it is generally taught that any breathing creature has a soul, or is a soul.

The word “***nephesh***” is translated “***soul***” more than 400 times. It is translated “***life***” more than 80 times,

The Greek word is “***psuehe***”. The verb is “***psucho***” and means “***to breathe***”, The Hebrew and the Greek have the same identical meaning.

The word “**psuehe**” is translated “**soul**”, in the New Testament Scriptures, more than 50 times.

The word “**psuehe**”, in the New Testament Scriptures, is translated “**life**” more than 30 times.

The Greek, “**psuchikos**”, is translated “**natural**”. It is twice translated, “**sensual**”. Jude 19 and James 3:15.

In **Ephesians 6:6**, “**psuehe**” is translated “**heart**”

In **Revelation 8:9**, “*the creatures which were in the sea, and had life (psuche), died.*”

In **I John 3:16**, “*He (Christ) laid down His life (psuche) for us.*”

In **Matthew 20:28**, Christ said, “*He came to give His “life” (psuehe) a ransom for many.*”

In **John 19:30**, When Christ died He “gave up the “ghost” (pneuma),”

In **Mark 3:4**, “*Is it lawful on the Sabbath day to save “life” (psuehe), or to kill?*” (Christ’s words)

In **Acts 20:24** Paul said, “*I count not my “life” (psuehe) dear unto myself.*”

In **Philippians 2:30**, it is stated that *Epaphroditus did not regard his "life" (psuehe)*.

Of course this had no reference to his concern about the salvation of his soul, but to physical death. But some say "soul death" and "physical death" are identical; for soul are breath, and the cessation of breathing means physical death.

The Hebrew word translated "**spirit**" is "**ruwach**".

The Greek word is "**pneuma**"

These two words are identical in meaning and come from verbs meaning "**to breathe**".

1Corinthians 15:44, *It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

The Greek "natural" is "**psuchikos**".

The Greek "spiritual" is "**pneumatikos**".

Here we have the dividing asunder of "soul" and "spirit". Hebrews 4:12. Note also I Corinthians 2:14 and 15, concerning "the natural man" and "the spiritual man."

The earthly house, the corruptible body of humiliation, is called "a natural body". The incorruptible house from heaven, the glorified body is called "the spiritual body",

Adam become a living Soul

Genesis 2:7, *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed (**nephesh**) into his nostrils the breath (**Neshamah**) of life(**khahee**); and man became a living (**khahee**) soul(**nephesh**)*

It was God's breath into man that made man a soul.

Genesis 7:22, *All in whose nostrils was the breath (**Neshamah**) of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died.*

Job 41:21, *His breath(**nephesh**) kindles coals, And a flame goes out of his mouth.*

So we learn in the Bible that man became a living soul and that man has a soul.

Elijah and the Dead child

1 kings 17:17, *Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath(**Neshamah**) left in him.*

Very interesting story of Elijah and the widow of Zarepath.

1 Kings 17:21-22, ²¹ *And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, I pray, let this child's soul(**nephesh**) come back to him."* ²² *Then the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul (**nephesh**) of the child came back to him, and he revived.*

For a short time the child was minus his soul. But his soul came back. It is not right for us to say that this simply meant that the breath returned to the child.

It is not man's breath that is healed or saved from death but the soul when man believes with his heart, according to Romans 10:9-10.

Man is a living soul

As we read from the first book of the bible in Genesis 2:7 Adam became a living soul.

In the last book of the Bible in Revelation 16:3 every living soul is dead. The creatures of God, human and otherwise, are called "souls".

In the book Leviticus chapter 7 there are lot of reference about soul being touching, eating etc., The soul, as generally understood, could not eat or touch that which we call physical or material. The human being is called "a soul".

*Acts 2:41, Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about **three thousand souls were added to them.***

So when they refer the soul they do refer the man. Let us look some more scriptures.

Luke 12:19, *And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."*

Deuteronomy 11:18, *Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*

Genesis 34:3, *His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the young woman and spoke kindly to the young woman.*

Psalms 23:3, *He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.*

Isaiah 55:3, *Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David.*

1 Peter 1:9, *receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.*

Job 14:22, *But his flesh will be in pain over it, And his soul will mourn over it."*

Habakkuk 2:10, *You give shameful counsel to your house, Cutting off many peoples, And sin against your soul.*

Psalms 41:4, *I said, "Lord, be merciful to me; Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You."*

We can learn that man's soul can be healed though he may have been affected by sickness and deceases.

Matthew 10:28, *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Man's body can be killed by men, but not his soul. In the Bible we learn that the soul loves and hates and rejoices and mourns.

Natural Man and Spiritual Man

1 Corinthians 2:14-15, *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one*

1 Corinthians 15:44, *It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

Here we read of the “natural man” and the “spiritual man” of the “natural body” and the “spiritual body”.

In these statements we have a definite example of that difference of soul and spirit, mentioned in Hebrews 4:12.

The Greek word “natural” is “psuchikos”, from “psuche” soul. The Greek word “spiritual” is “pneumatikos” from “pneuma” spirit.

What a contrast; what a difference between the “psuchikos” man and the “pneumatikos” man!

And surely there is a difference between the corruptible body, the “natural body”, and the spiritual body”.

James 3:15, *This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.*” “Sensual” (psuchikos). “Earthly”, “sensual” and “demonic”

The word “sensual” is the same Greek word translated “natural”. Some have translated this word “soulish”.

As you have seen that the definition, function, and destiny of the soul is no superficial study.

Ezekiel 18:4, “The soul that sins it shall die.”

Hebrews 10:39, “unto the saving of the soul”.

The soul of the sinful person is saved when that person believes; but his body will not be saved until the day of redemption.

